

JULY

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

JULY MEETING

Date: Wednesday, July 12, 8:15 p.m.
Place: Morrison Auditorium
Subject: "THE ANCIENT WORLD: EGYPT"

This sound-color film traces the story of Egypt from the prehistoric period to the time of the Ptolemies. The beginnings of monumental art are shown at Sakkara. The glories of the Old Kingdom, the Pyramids and the Sphinx at Giza, and the superb portrait sculpture and tomb decorations are shown in detail. The artistry of the Middle Kingdom in its refinement of tomb painting and in minor works of art is profusely illustrated. The splendid creations of the great Pharaohs are presented, as well as the treasures of the city of Akhenaten and the tomb of Tutankhamen. The result is a dramatic yet scientifically accurate portrayal of the civilization of Ancient Egypt.

Dr. Robert C. Miller, Director of the Academy, will discuss the effects of the construction of the Aswan Dam upon many of these ancient treasures.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"MAN INTO SPACE!", the spectacular summer astronomy show created out of today's headlines will be presented during the months of July and August and through Labor Day, September 4.

Shows are given daily at 2:15, 3:30 and 8:30 p.m., with an extra show at 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and on July 4 and September 4.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"HAWAIIAN BIRDS", photos by William V. Ward, continues in Lovell White Hall through July.

"GERANIUMS AND PELARGONIUMS", water colors by John Newton, continues in the Eastwood Hall of Botany through August.

"THE WORLD BENEATH THE SEA", unusual underwater color photographs by Verne E. Peckham and S. K. Santmyers, Jr. together with an illustrated history of diving, will be on exhibition in Lovell White Hall beginning July 2 and extending through September 30.

Admission to all these exhibits is free.

NEWS and NOTES

Through their association with the late Mr. W. B. Chapman of Santa Barbara, Mr. C. C. Church and Dr. G. Dallas Hanna have been able to present the Academy with a unique collection of marine algae made by Mrs. Grace A. Hall during the period 1884-1912. Mr. Chapman was Mrs. Hall's nephew.

The collection of several hundred mounted specimens, excellently prepared (the process is difficult) and scientifically important because of Mrs. Hall's careful data and annotations, began as a hobby. However, as the number of specimens grew, so did her interest, taking her up and down the Atlantic seaboard and to many places along the California coast. She was in touch with eminent algologists of her time and presented specimens to many museums in the United States and Europe. Mr. Chapman's gift is an important addition to the Academy's herbarium.

Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan of the University of British Columbia has presented the Geology Department with a noteworthy collection of shells from Lake Baikal in southeastern Siberia. Lake Baikal, deep and far inland, is known for its varied and unusual fauna and flora. Fossil forms already in the Academy collections which are similar to those in Dr. Cowan's gift offer an excellent opportunity for comparative study.

Professor of Zoology, Dr. Caesar Boettger of the University of Braunschweig, West Germany, was a recent visitor to the Academy. Dr. Boettger, a conchologist of note, is on a tour of the museums of the United States.

Interested visitors to the J. W. Mailliard, Jr., Library during the latter part of May were science librarians from several of the natural history museums of the United States. They were in San Francisco in connection with the 1961 Convention of the Special Libraries Association.

An all-time record for monthly attendance at the special student shows given in Morrison Planetarium was established during the month of May 1961. 10,688 students from as far north of San Francisco as Ukiah and from as far south as Salinas came to the Academy for an elementary introduction to the world of astronomy.

Two valued employees of Steinhart Aquarium have recently been retired after years of devoted service. They are Donald A. Simpson, Assistant Curator of Aquatic Biology, who first became associated with

the Aquarium in 1941, and Niall Patrick Farley, Aquarist, who for the past six years has been in charge of the reptile and amphibian displays as well as the food preparation for the entire Aquarium.

Members of the Astronomy Section will hold their regular monthly meeting in Morrison Auditorium, Wednesday, July 26 at 8:00 p.m. The evening will be devoted to the showing of a film, "Eclipse on Danger Island". George Bunton, who was a member of the Academy eclipse expedition in 1958, will preside.

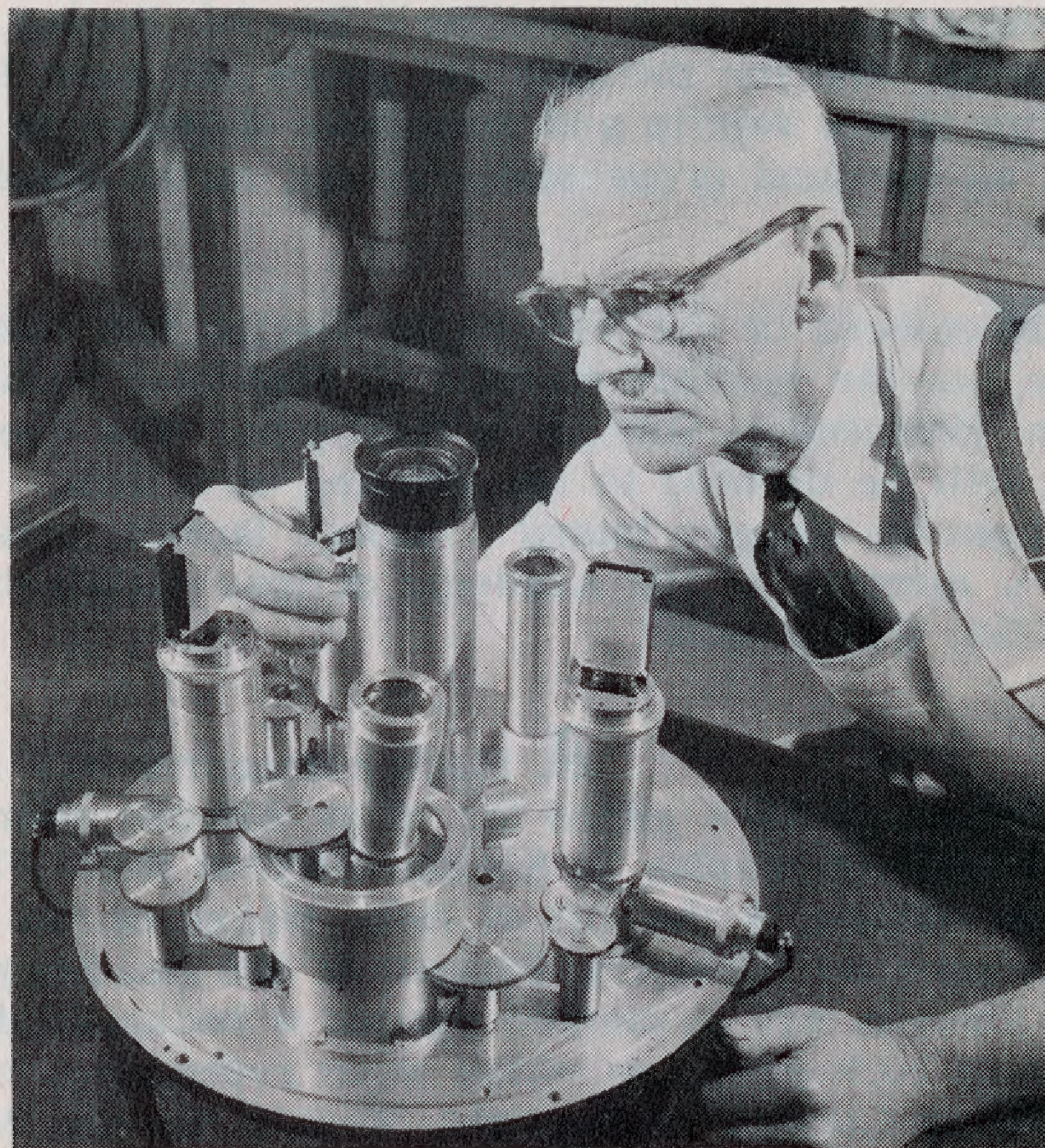
A black rhinoceros and a hippopotamus have joined the many African animals on permanent display in Simson African Hall. This newest exhibit is the gift of Dean Witter of San Francisco, an Honorary Trustee of the Academy. The animals are presented against a background of Saharan rock-paintings which were reproduced by Associate Curator of Exhibits, Toshio Asaeda. Mr. Asaeda is also responsible, with Mr. William Huff, for the taxidermy of the rhinoceros. The late Cecil Tose did the taxidermy on the hippopotamus.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees has announced the appointments of Mrs. John I. Walter and Mr. Anson Herrick as Honorary Library Associates. Mrs. Walter is a creative bookbinder of renown, having won prizes in both national and international competitions. Mr. Herrick, who began as a hobbyist and ended as a specialist in the bookbinding field, is a long-time friend and member of the Academy. Mrs. Walter and Mr. Herrick will act as consultants on problems connected with the preservation of rare books in the Mailliard Library.

Dr. Benjamin Banta, who only recently received his doctorate from Stanford University, and Dr. Alan E. Leviton of the Department of Herpetology, left the Academy on June 22 to visit five eastern museums. Their trip, made possible by travel grants from the American Philosophical Society, will be devoted to an examination of specific collections of reptiles and amphibians in order to conclude research projects now under way.

ERRATA: 1. May 1961 NEWSLETTER, #257, News and Notes. Requests for copies of Systematic Zoology, Volume 9, Numbers 3 & 4, should be addressed to Dr. J. M. Savage, Department of Biology, University of Southern California, Los Angeles 7. The cost for this double issue is \$4.00 and not \$2.00 as indicated. 2. June 1961 NEWSLETTER, #258, News and Notes. The correct title of Dr. Robert T. Orr's book published by the W. B. Saunders Company is "Vertebrate Biology". Our sincere apologies to everyone concerned for the inconveniences involved.

Meet the Staff



A. S. GETTEN, principal designer of the Morrison Planetarium projector, is convinced that his grandfather, a man of considerable ingenuity, was directly responsible for his becoming an Instrument Specialist.

Born in Kankakee, Illinois, Jimmy (as he is called by Academy co-workers) spent his young manhood in New York but came west to California in 1914. World War I took him to France for a year. Subsequently, after discharge at the Presidio of San Francisco, he stayed in the Bay Area, employing his talents as radio repairman and commercial photographer.

In the early 1930's, he became associated for the first time with Dr. G. Dallas Hanna of the Academy staff on a project then under way at the Academy. When the project finished, he left to design a commercial automatic slide projector known as the Selectroslide, which is now in very wide use. He returned to the Academy in 1942 under Dr. Hanna's aegis and has been here ever since. During World War II he worked on optical and navigational instruments for the U. S. Navy under terms of its contract with the Academy.

At work or at home, his chief interest is the design and construction of special equipment, be it a projection orrery or hi-fi set. Notably, he has made improvements on a seismic switch first developed by the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey and used by concerns building atomic reactors. The switch immediately turns off the reactor in case of earthquake.

Mr. Getten is fond of music, particularly piano concertos, and English authors, particularly Lewis Carroll and H. G. Wells. At his hillside home in Sausalito where he lives with his wife Vashti, he has created an individual weather station, complete with rain gauge, anemometer and electronic thermometer which, on the inside of the house, indicates the temperature both indoors and out.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

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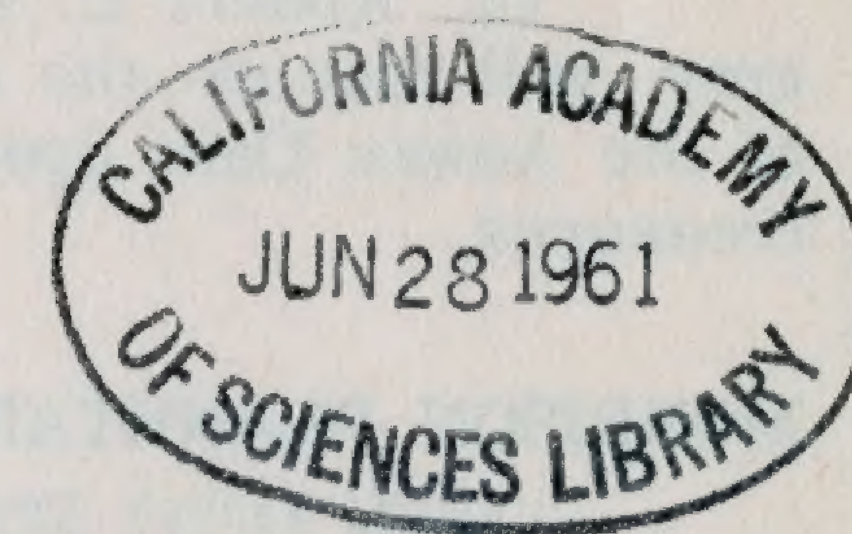
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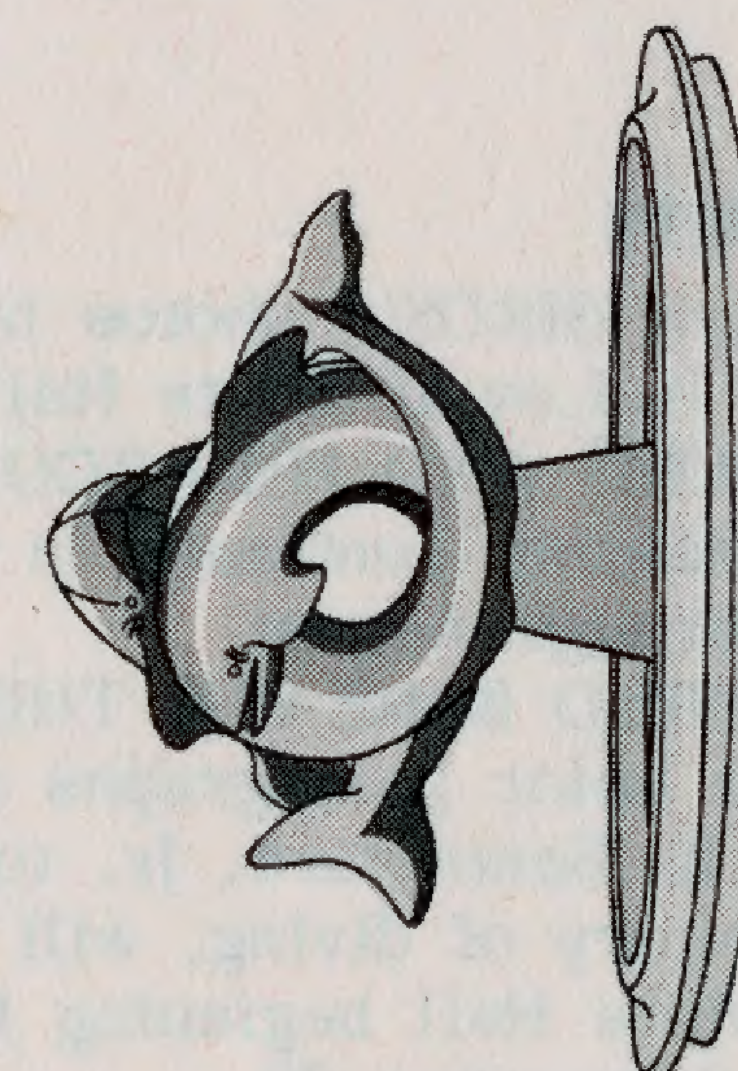
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